



DELBERT HOSEMANN
Secretary of State

MISSISSIPPI SECRETARY OF STATE

CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES PUBLIC HEARING

GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

JULY 21, 2011

PRESIDING:

DELBERT HOSEMANN
Mississippi Secretary of State
401 Mississippi Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

ALSO PRESENT:

LAURA WALKER
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

REPORTED BY: PAMELA MICHELE KEENLANCE, CSR
CSR NO. 1511

1 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Good afternoon,
2 everyone. It's good to see everybody today, this
3 afternoon. We've been waiting for a moment.
4 Dr. Dixon, who is going to be speaking against
5 the initial ballot on personhood, Initiative No.
6 26, made a wrong turn. But we're going to go
7 ahead and start without her. And if we do, we'll
8 take public comments on that point, and then
9 we'll come back after she gets here.

10 I'd like to welcome y'all tonight to be
11 started on what now is the fourth time we have
12 had public hearings concerning the ballot issues,
13 constitutional issues that we are here for.

14 The initiative process in Mississippi was
15 started with a requirement by the Mississippi
16 Legislature that you have 12 percent of the
17 amount of votes that were cast in the last
18 gubernatorial election in order to place an
19 initiative on the ballot.

20 The ones that we'll be discussing tonight,
21 personhood, voter I.D., and eminent domain, all
22 exceeded 89,285 ballots which were required --
23 signatures which were required. In fact, each of
24 them received over 100,000 signatures.

25 The signatures had to be obtained from the

1 five old Congressional districts. And so all of
2 them were interspersed equally.

3 Currently, what we're doing now, and what
4 you'll be participating in tonight, will be the
5 voter education portion of the initiative
6 process. As required by the Mississippi
7 Legislature, the Secretary of State is required
8 to go into all five Congressional districts.

9 Those five Congressional districts then have
10 public forums, in which you'll participate
11 tonight, to discuss the pros and cons of each of
12 the initiatives.

13 That public portion is very important. I
14 felt it was so important, from a historical
15 perspective in Mississippi, that we actually have
16 nine of these scheduled around the state of
17 Mississippi. We wanted to make sure we were no
18 further than 60 miles from any citizen who wanted
19 to speak.

20 In addition, we have tried to make this
21 process as transparent as possible. What we've
22 done is, we are transcribing this this evening,
23 and you will see the transcript from this come on
24 our website in about ten days. You can see the
25 Southaven one. And the Starkville one will be

1 posted shortly. Southaven is already up. In it
2 you will see a complete review of all the
3 statements made today.

4 In addition, we are requesting written
5 comments from anyone who would like to issue a
6 written comment. Those, too, will be posted on
7 the Secretary of State's website, both for and
8 against each of the initiatives. The efforts
9 that we are making here and the publication of
10 the pamphlets that I'll be discussing very
11 shortly is an effort to have an informed voter
12 and to have you to have the ability to know what
13 each of the initiatives means and whether or not
14 you decide to cast your ballot for them.

15 In the past, two initiatives have actually
16 made it to the ballot. None has ever passed.
17 Both were term limits and both were defeated in
18 the state of Mississippi by the voters. These
19 three are the next ones. We are at a historic
20 part in Mississippi's history to have three
21 constitutional ballots on the same ballot. It's
22 never been that way before. Our constitution was
23 adopted in 1890.

24 The format for tonight's presentation will
25 be we'll first discuss each initiative. I will

1 review the initiative with you and the pamphlet
2 that was available outside. And I encourage you
3 to take this pamphlet and others to give to your
4 neighbors and your friends and your people at
5 church and in your city program. Make sure you
6 give as many of these out so that we can continue
7 to inform the voters exactly what will be
8 happening.

9 Each proponent and each opponent will start
10 with five minutes, for and against their
11 particular constitutional initiative. After
12 that, we have time -- we have two minutes for
13 each and every member of the public to speak.
14 You should have filled out a card, a small card,
15 here that will allow you to come up for or
16 against. And those will be presented to us and
17 we will call you from the audience to speak.
18 After that, we will open the floor for comments,
19 as well, for those of you who have not
20 registered.

21 Individual comments, of course, will be
22 recorded and placed of record. It's very
23 important in a public democracy, as we have
24 today, that we each have the right and the
25 privilege to voice our opinion. Your opinions

1 not only will be shared with those in the
2 audience tonight, but they'll also be shared with
3 the entire state of Mississippi over the
4 Secretary of State's website.

5 Please remember when we have these
6 discussions, a couple of things before we start.
7 These are already approved to be on the ballot on
8 November the 8th. You will see them on there.
9 And I would encourage you not to waste your time
10 discussing whether or not they should be on the
11 ballot. They have already been approved for the
12 ballot.

13 The second thing that I would encourage you
14 to remember is that servicemen and women are
15 fighting today and giving their lives. Over 60
16 Mississippians have died in Afghanistan and Iraq
17 for your right to speak tonight. We would like
18 to respect their sacrifice by asking you to
19 respect your fellow citizens and be concise and
20 be as specific as you can in your comments and,
21 also, to be as civil to your fellow
22 Mississippians as you can on these issues.

23 We will start this evening in the order in
24 which the constitutional initiatives were passed
25 and were filed with the Secretary of State's

1 Office and were approved by the Attorney General.

2 The first is the definition of person. It
3 is Initiative Number 26. If you'll look, there
4 is a ballot title on the inside and a ballot
5 summary. Then, speaking for the initiative is a
6 300-word essay by Brad Prewitt, who's with us
7 this evening.

8 Speaking against the initiative is Lynn
9 Evans, who is a Public Health Advocate. Both of
10 those arguments are here in the brochure and
11 ready for you to read this evening.

12 I'll start by telling you what the
13 definition is. The definition of person, should
14 the term "person" be defined to include every
15 human being from the moment of fertilization,
16 cloning, or the equivalent thereof?

17 The actual initiative itself is listed
18 inside of the brochure. And it, too, is quite
19 short: "Be it Enacted by the People of the State
20 of Mississippi, Section 1, Article III of the
21 Constitution of the State of Mississippi is
22 hereby amended by the addition of a new section
23 to read: Section 33, person defined. As used in
24 this Article III of the State Constitution, the
25 term "person" or "persons," shall include every

1 human being from the moment of fertilization,
2 cloning, or the functional equivalent thereof.

3 So we will start by recognizing Brad Prewitt
4 to come and speak for Initiative 26, the
5 personhood amendment.

6 BRAD PREWITT: Thanks, Mr. Secretary. And
7 glad to be back down on the Mississippi Gulf
8 Coast where I practiced law back in the early
9 '90s. It's a great place to be. I'm thankful to
10 have the opportunity to speak on behalf of
11 personhood and the Amendment.

12 I am the Executive Director of YesOn26.net,
13 which is a campaign coalition of broad-based,
14 mainstream support across Mississippi. And we
15 are here to promote passage of that amendment,
16 which would establish personhood of the unborn at
17 the earliest biological moment, artificial or
18 natural. Now, YesOn26 has Board members which
19 range from Lieutenant Governors and State
20 Auditors to pastors of large African American and
21 white churches across the states.

22 Beyond party affiliation, we have OB/GYNs on
23 our Board. We have adoption agency heads,
24 orphanage heads. So we're broad based and very
25 much representative of the majority of

1 Mississippians who favor Pro Life.

2 Personhood is not a novel concept. It's
3 been around since the beginning. Now, some have
4 suggested in previous hearings that we shouldn't
5 invoke God, that this is not a Christian nation
6 anymore. Well, I can tell you that Mississippi
7 is still a Christian state.

8 And in the Constitution itself, which
9 Secretary Hosemann has put outside for you, the
10 very Preamble itself invokes Almighty God. So
11 I'm going to invoke Almighty God and say that in
12 Genesis, God created Man in our image, He says,
13 and that image is affording significance to each
14 life.

15 And that life, as in Psalm 139 (16) is
16 beyond just an outward breathing existent life
17 beyond the womb, but is also the unborn substance
18 in the womb. And so, clearly that is where we
19 begin with the Biblical point of view, and that's
20 where our Mississippi Constitutional fathers
21 begin.

22 Now, the founding fathers themselves in the
23 Declaration of Independence said, we hold these
24 true to self-evident. And they recognized the
25 Creator had enabled us to have a right to life.

1 All men are created equal. Well, if we are men
2 and we are created equal, then what about
3 equality for the unborn.

4 Well, we go beyond there to science. It is
5 unequivocal in science. Even Liberal scientists
6 can see that life begins at conception. The head
7 of the Mayo Clinic's Bioethics Genetics
8 Department said that, science is a very simple
9 conception of man. As soon as he has been
10 conceived, a man is a man. So we can clearly
11 understand that life begins at conception. We're
12 unique. We are a unique -- special unique
13 creation at the very beginning.

14 Even in our State statutes, criminal
15 statutes recognize that if a crime is committed
16 against a woman who is pregnant, that from the
17 very time of conception that unborn child has
18 legal status, and that crime is not just
19 committed against the woman, but the unborn. So
20 a person is already existent in our statutory
21 law.

22 Well, Roe versus Wade just ignored all of
23 that. And even though they ignored it and chose
24 sexual freedom over recognizing the facts of
25 life, and the facts which we all know and which

1 we can't deny, they went and said, well, if
2 personhood had been established by Texas, if they
3 had afforded the fetus rights of personhood
4 there, then the case would collapse, because we
5 would have to then afford equal protection under
6 the law to these unborn children.

7 So even they recognized the critical hangup
8 that we're pursuing today in Mississippi and
9 other states across the country. There are over
10 a dozen states right now pursuing personhood.
11 Now, Mississippi has the first shot at getting
12 this in law. And I think Mississippi is the
13 right place to have this civil rights cause of
14 2011. I really do.

15 Now, even Ronald Reagan in 1988 had a
16 personhood proclamation where he said, the
17 well-being and future of our country demand that
18 protection of innocence must be guaranteed and
19 that a personhood of the unborn be declared to
20 defend throughout our land. Senator Roger Wicker
21 has the same language that you see on this poster
22 in Senate Bill 91.

23 This language, just reflect on it. It's
24 very simple, friends. That you will hear tonight
25 that the sky is falling. You will hear that

1 birth control will be banned, the morning after
2 pill, an abortive agent. You will hear that
3 women's health will be in jeopardy.

4 My wife is a physician. I would not be
5 arguing on something that is clearly contrary to
6 women's health. Standards of care will still
7 operate. If a woman has cancer or she's got an
8 ectopic pregnancy, God is not saying that the
9 woman is second, the unborn is first. We're
10 saying that the unborn actually has a voice.
11 It's part of the future.

12 Rape victims. Well, a crime of a father
13 doesn't mean you commit a crime against the
14 child. There are adoptions, orphanages
15 available, and usually people suffer worse than
16 if they have abortion before they had one. IVF
17 wouldn't be stopped. If we just put some
18 safeguards on preserving the embryos, and not
19 making them be discarded as idle parts left for
20 medical research. There are other options,
21 friends.

22 And there wouldn't be prosecution of
23 miscarriages. That didn't happen before abortion
24 was legal. So the sky is not falling, friends.
25 And by the way, we're not dealing with Chicken

1 Little. The proponents of this are an evil
2 organization. And that's a strong word. If you
3 go back and you look at Planned Parenthood's
4 inception, you will find that there is dark, dark
5 history there. People that consorted with the
6 Klan and Adolph Hitler. And that's how strong it
7 is. Research it. Go on Google. Research it.
8 It's true.

9 They have 360 million dollars of your
10 taxpayer money to spend on election ballots in
11 Mississippi. And I argue, my friends, that we
12 shouldn't have our rights taken from us. I urge
13 you to support Initiative 26. Support life in
14 Mississippi. Thank you.

15 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you, Brad.

16 Dr. Persharon Dixon, you're recognized for
17 five minutes to speak against the Initiative.

18 DR. PERSHARON DIXON: Good evening. I am
19 Dr. Persharon Dixon, and I am a pediatrician in
20 practice for 12 years, with the last four
21 occurring here on the Coast. I serve as the
22 primary pediatrician on a mobile van that
23 provides access to those who are age zero up to
24 24. So if a good number of the patients that I
25 see do come to me for family planning care. But

1 some come a bit too late, and I would rather had
2 seen them before they had to make a decision
3 about their care.

4 When you've seen one too many 11 year olds,
5 12 year olds, and 13 year olds come to you with
6 an unintended pregnancy, whether that be by
7 choice or not by choice, and then you begin to
8 think about what it is we can do to make a
9 difference for them.

10 I serve as the medical director of a
11 Federally qualified healthcare initiative that
12 services the lower three counties of the Coast,
13 and has an attachment area of about six counties.
14 Our providers extend care to over 30,000 patients
15 in these areas. Many of those who need the care
16 that we are talking about today.

17 Our patient population is primarily
18 underserved and underinsured. And, personally, I
19 work primarily with the young families for whom
20 access is a major concern.

21 Additionally, I spend a lot of my free time
22 working with young women of color, through the
23 initiatives of the Kappa Alpha Kappa Sorority,
24 which addresses issues affecting young girls and
25 women. And pregnancy has been a difficult area

1 for us in terms of how we approach these young
2 women and how we help them care for themselves.

3 Though Initiative 26 sounds like something
4 to support, there are many reasons to oppose it.
5 Women in Mississippi already face barriers to
6 healthcare of all kinds. And poor women in
7 Mississippi are likely to be women of color.
8 They often do not receive quality healthcare, as
9 women of greater financial means may. This is
10 clearly evident when we look at the health
11 outcomes in our state. Initiative 26 could
12 exacerbate negative healthcare outcomes that we
13 already see across our state and endanger the
14 health and well-being of Mississippi women.
15 Particularly women in minority communities.

16 Supporters of Initiative 26 have told the
17 public that this initiative is good for
18 Mississippians. And I will submit that I simply
19 don't think that is true. The potential
20 consequences are dire. And if this initiative
21 passes it would be, I believe, to the detriment
22 to many Mississippi women and families.

23 First, let's consider the medical definition
24 of pregnancy. Defining personhood as starting at
25 fertilization is in direct conflict with the

1 medical definition of pregnancy as defined by the
2 American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

3 Pregnancy, they say, begins at implantation,
4 when the embryo adheres to the wall of the
5 uterus, not at fertilization.

6 Let's consider what the potential impact is
7 on contraceptives. Supporters of the initiative
8 were simply wrong when they say that this
9 initiative will not affect birth control. In
10 fact, just last night Mr. Prewitt, the Executive
11 Director of Yes, stated that birth control would
12 not be affected, but that emergency contraception
13 could be.

14 What we are talking about here with
15 emergency contraception is whether -- how it
16 works. There's no clear understanding of that.
17 He has just said that this is an abortive method.
18 And truly, Plan B is not that. Plan B creates a
19 hostile environment in the uterus so that
20 implantation doesn't occur. It also can prevent
21 fertilization.

22 The problem is, which is appropriate. If
23 you back this up to where we're talking about
24 fertilization as opposed to implantation, then
25 you do put Plan B on the table. You also put

1 IUDs on the table. And you also put other
2 methods of birth control that are in the market
3 now on the table as a, look at how we can allow
4 women to have other choices that prevent an
5 unintended pregnancy.

6 So emergent contraception is impacted. If
7 it's impacted, then other forms of birth control
8 could be, as well. So to be clear, emergency
9 contraception is not an abortive pill and cannot
10 terminate an established pregnancy, as already
11 defined by ACOG. It is a back-up method and it's
12 used in case of sexual assault, contraceptive
13 failure, or unprotected intercourse.

14 Understanding this and understanding birth
15 control is one of the largest medical
16 breakthroughs in history. It is to also
17 understand that the impact of this definition is
18 greater than prevention of abortion. But, also
19 impacts well-studied and effective methods of
20 birth control in Mississippi. The impact on
21 women of childbearing age, and especially
22 minority women, could be catastrophic.

23 Instead of creating hurdles for women to
24 control their fertility, we should be working to
25 empower women through education and affordable

1 access to contraceptives and maternity care.

2 Young women of color lead in this State's

3 statistics regarding teen birth, infant

4 mortality, and AIDS cases. This initiative will

5 likely make these problems worse. Let's not

6 worsen our health outcomes for women by creating

7 new, unnecessary and disparaging care, but

8 instead work to prevent unintended pregnancy,

9 reducing the need for abortion in our State.

10 I would like to just say that in the State

11 of Mississippi, our statistics show that women in

12 our State rarely chose abortion as their choice.

13 The women in this state are having their babies.

14 And so, instead of putting a lot of money and a

15 lot of effort into finding more and more ways to

16 discuss the abortion issue, I say that we should

17 be putting money into how we prevent unintended

18 pregnancies, how we allow greater access, how we

19 give information to our young women here on the

20 Coast and all across Mississippi about

21 comprehensive sex education and how do we empower

22 them to make good choices, so that they don't

23 have to make a choice on the back end. They've

24 made a good choice on the front end.

25 So I ask you, for the sake of the women and

1 the infants our State, please oppose Initiative

2 26. Thank you.

3 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you, Dr. Dixon.

4 We'll now start the public portion of our hearing

5 this afternoon -- or this evening. And each of

6 you are recognized for two minutes. Laura has a

7 little card here. She'll wave it at you when you

8 get to about halfway done. And, again, we

9 welcome all written statements. So we'll start

10 with Bill Blaisdell. Yes, sir. Come up right

11 here. If you'll speak into the microphone, we'll

12 only start the two minutes when you get settled

13 in there. Could you pronounce your name for us,

14 sir?

15 BILL BLAISDELL: Bill. My name is Bill

16 Blaisdell.

17 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: That's perfect.

18 Thank you.

19 BILL BLAISDELL: Hello. Can you hear me?

20 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Not yet. Just a

21 second, Bill, while she cuts it on there. You're

22 recognized for two minutes, sir.

23 BILL BLAISDELL: All right. Thank you.

24 The founding document of this Nation, our

25 Declaration of Independence, states that the

1 right to life is endowed by our Creator, not
2 government or manmade law. The right to life is
3 primary. For without it, no other rights exist.

4 However, throughout history, attempts to
5 deny personhood rights to certain categories of
6 persons have developed. In 1857, by a vote of
7 seven to two, the U.S. Supreme Court declared
8 Black slaves to be non-persons, but rather the
9 property of the owner who could chose -- and
10 you've probably heard that word before -- who
11 could chose to buy, sell, or even kill black
12 non-persons. It was legal to do so.

13 The Court decision was final. The Court has
14 never changed this decision known to us now as
15 Dred Scott. It took a bloody civil war to do
16 that. In 1973, the Court decided, again by a
17 vote of seven to two, that the pre-born are also
18 non-persons and are the sole property of the
19 mother, who can chose to keep a child or kill it.
20 Not him or her, of course, but it. The decision
21 is final.

22 Abortion is legal, but the right to life is
23 inalienable. There is no authority which gives
24 the courts permission to declare the blacks or
25 pre-borns as non-persons. There is no authority

1 to do that. The Court has a poor history of
2 changing these decisions. We can all go back and
3 see Dred Scott.

4 The years needed to change the make-up of
5 the Court to make this change will cost millions
6 of more lives. We've lost 53 million already
7 since 1973. The best hope for change is to
8 demand the right of personhood through peoples'
9 initiatives state by state. God willing,
10 Mississippi will mark the beginning.

11 Finally, I'd like to point out, many of you
12 may have seen this picture. This is not a
13 picture of a grapefruit or a giraffe. This is a
14 human being. And God willing, we will give her
15 the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of
16 happiness in this State this November. Thank
17 you.

18 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you, Bill.
19 Rising to speak, Carol Burnett. Carol will be
20 speaking against the personhood amendment, and
21 she is from Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Bill was
22 from Diamondhead, Mississippi.

23 Ms. Burnett, you are recognized for two
24 minutes to speak against Initiative 26. Do we
25 need to lower that for you? You might just move

1 the mic, ma'am. All right. You're recognized,
2 Ms. Burnett.

3 CAROL BURNETT: I'm a United Methodist
4 minister. And insofar as this is an
5 anti-abortion effort, this is in contradiction to
6 the United Methodist position on abortion, which
7 reads: We recognize tragic conflicts of life or
8 plight that may justify an abortion, and in such
9 cases we support the legal option of abortion
10 under proper medical procedures.

11 Secondly, this process and the amendment
12 divert attention and resources from real
13 solutions to serious problems. Mississippi is an
14 anti-abortion state. This amendment wouldn't
15 make Mississippi more anti-abortion or reduce the
16 numbers that occur. Our young people don't
17 support abortion, nor do their families. But we
18 know they're having sex, because we have the
19 highest teen birth rate of any state in the
20 nation.

21 These children fair worse than any children
22 in the nation. For 20 years, Kids Count has
23 ranked Mississippi dead last in child well-being
24 on indicators that measured health, education,
25 and family income.

1 We have the highest rate of unintended
2 pregnancies among women of any age. The best
3 strategy for fighting these problems that plaque
4 our state is not this amendment, but proven
5 pregnancy prevention strategy that include,
6 information, services, and contraception.

7 And rather than waste scarce resources on an
8 effort like this diversion that may well be
9 prudent and illegal, let's address real problems
10 faced by children who are already born.

11 For example, working families with young
12 children need help paying the cost of childcare.
13 The program that helps family is inadequately
14 funded. Though thousands are on the waiting list
15 waiting for service. This is the type of program
16 that we could be supporting, that we should be
17 supporting. Programs that are children who are
18 already born really need.

19 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you,
20 Ms.Burnett. John McCarthy from Diamondhead,
21 Mississippi. Mr. McCarthy. And you're
22 recognized for two minutes to speak for the
23 personhood amendment.

24 JOHN MCCARTHY: Thank you, Mr. Hosemann.
25 Fellow Citizens, my name is John McCarthy. I

1 come here as a private citizen. I moved to
2 Mississippi approximately six years after
3 practicing law in New York City for almost 46
4 years.

5 I'm here to say that I'm very concerned, of
6 course, about young women who find themselves in
7 terrible social pain and everything else. But to
8 me, it boils down to the fundamental principle of
9 national, and not only national law, but divine
10 law, that every life is sacred. And I'm in full
11 support of the Initiative on that board.

12 And the only thing we worked in New York
13 since the early, I think it was, 1960s, New York
14 was one of the leaders in pro-abortion and
15 legislators worked very diligently to increase
16 it. We formed our own party. I don't think
17 people are aware of that. But New York had its
18 own Right to Life Party, where we set up
19 candidates from president right down to the
20 lowest colleague, so to speak, and we did well.
21 We saved a lot of babies. And I think that
22 that's what we have to really take into
23 consideration.

24 We are speaking of a human being here. And
25 one thing -- the best thing about this initiative

1 is that there are no exceptions. Just because a
2 baby was conceived from a rape or incest, or what
3 have you, doesn't mean he should be born. I
4 mean, the sins of the father should not be forced
5 upon the children.

6 So in conclusion, search your hearts. Look
7 in your consciences. We need help in passing
8 this amendment. If we can manage this in
9 Mississippi, we can walk prouder to call
10 ourselves Mississippians. Thank you.

11 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you, Mr.
12 McCarthy. We're glad you're here. Is it Alethra
13 Perryman, would rise from Ocean Springs,
14 Mississippi to speak against Initiative 26,
15 personhood amendment. Ms. Perryman.

16 ALETHRA PERRYMAN: Good evening. My name
17 is Alethra Perryman, and I'm from Ocean Springs,
18 Mississippi, and I'm against the personhood
19 amendment.

20 Here in our nation, we have the right to
21 make choices. That is what makes us different
22 from other countries. And I believe a woman has
23 the right to decide what happens in her body,
24 regardless of how a child was conceived. If a
25 child was conceived from a rape or an incest, I

1 don't think we should make a woman disclose that
2 to justify her choice. It is a woman's body.

3 This personhood amendment not only removes a
4 woman's right to choose to carry her birth -- to
5 carry a fetus to delivery. It also removes a
6 woman's choice if she's infertile to have other
7 options to conceive a child.

8 So, basically, this initiative takes away
9 the choices of only women in the State of
10 Mississippi. The sins of the father are not the
11 sins of the child. However, the mother does have
12 a right to make a choice. Thank you.

13 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you, Ms.
14 Perryman. Hannah Burnett. Ms. Burnett is from
15 Gulfport, Mississippi. And she's recognized to
16 speak for the personhood amendment.

17 HANNAH BURNETT: My name is Hannah
18 Burnett, and I am actually a full-time student.
19 I will be a junior in the fall. My major is
20 secondary education, so my future is working with
21 America's young people.

22 And as we start looking at Amendment 26, I
23 am definitely in favor of it for several reasons.
24 Many have said that the measure of society is how
25 it treats the most vulnerable in it. If that's

1 true, then America certainly does need to reform.

2 Voting yes on Amendment 26 in defining
3 personhood allows us to protect those who are the
4 most vulnerable and give them the most basic
5 right. The right to life.

6 There are forums of scientific journals,
7 encyclopedias, and medical textbooks that
8 validate the point that life begins at
9 fertilization, or more commonly called
10 conception. If this is true, then practices such
11 as abortion totally contradict the American views
12 that everyone has the right to life, liberty and
13 the pursuit of happiness.

14 In addition, the Fifth and Fourteenth
15 Amendment tells us that no one shall have that
16 right taken from them without due process of law.
17 In essence, these practices that currently exist,
18 and this has been all over the nation, means
19 giving preference to one group of people over
20 another group of people. It is allowing those
21 folks outside the womb to chose the fate of those
22 who are virtually helpless, yet according to
23 science, fully human inside the womb.

24 Opportunity to experience our most precious
25 and fundamental gifts of life.

1 Some would argue that these practices
2 promote women's health. But, in essence, this is
3 totally not true. A woman is made up of more
4 than just her physical body. It is also the
5 emotional health that is more affected when an
6 abortion takes place.

7 Amendment 26 in no way wants to take away
8 your rights or the choices of women. But science
9 tells us clearly that life does begin at
10 fertilization. So her choice, in essence,
11 affects another life. We need to vote Yes on
12 Amendment 26 and validate that it does give
13 rights to those who are most vulnerable. Thank
14 you.

15 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you. Ms.
16 Burnett. Roberta, is it Chilimigras? Ms.
17 Chilimigras, you are recognized to speak for the
18 personhood amendment.

19 ROBERTA CHILIMIGRAS: I am Dr.
20 Chilimigras. I've been in family practice for
21 some 37 years, a good 21 of those in the State of
22 Mississippi, and I am very much Pro Life.

23 I have a history of infertility. I had my
24 first child when I was 31. I know what the agony
25 of infertility is. I also have a handicapped

1 child. I know what that's like, to carry a
2 handicapped child. Those lives are valuable.

3 We, as -- human beings do not have a right
4 to a child. We're not given a right to children,
5 to create children, or to take their lives.
6 That's God's decision.

7 Regarding the negative options here, it says
8 that in vitro fertilization would be denied.
9 Options that in vitro fertilization causes the
10 death of fertilized human beings. Yes, this
11 would be denied. But to have assisted
12 fertilization, that would not, because those
13 babies would be implanted in their mother's womb,
14 which is where they belong.

15 Preeclampsia, molar gestations and early
16 ectopic pregnancies, this amendment would in no
17 way affect that. Physicians treat the health and
18 life of the mother, her priority. They would not
19 in any way jeopardize the mother's life to save
20 the life of the infant, unless the mother asked
21 to have her life taken and save the life of the
22 baby. That is a given in medicine and that would
23 not be jeopardized.

24 New stem cell treatments for patients they
25 say would be denied. That's a fallacy. All of

1 the fetal stem cell research has come to nothing.
2 All of the adult stem cell research that has been
3 done in this country has had very good results
4 and we are progressing very well with that. And
5 all of those fetal adult stem cells can be
6 harvested when the baby is born from his
7 umbilical cord and they can be banked for future
8 use, so everybody has got adult stem cells of
9 their own that are available for any treatment
10 that they need in the future.

11 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you, Doctor.
12 John Chilimigras from Waveland, Mississippi. He
13 is recognized to speak for the personhood
14 amendment.

15 JOHN CHILIMIGRAS: Okay. I would like to
16 begin with kind of rephrasing the debate. We
17 continually leave the debate and jump immediately
18 to abortion and the effects of this personhood
19 amendment, when leaving personhood in and of
20 itself all together. The impact that the
21 personhood amendment would have down the line
22 should not effect whether a human being gets
23 personhood or not. I'm very sad that the
24 southern states that I love used the impact,
25 economic, social impact to withhold personhood

1 rights from the African Americans years ago.
2 Impact should not be an issue on a person's
3 fundamental rights. So what do we have? Issues
4 of personhood and not abortion. How do we decide
5 what is personhood? Scientifically, do we have a
6 human being? Philosophically, is personhood due
7 that human being.

8 I don't have time to address scientifically,
9 but I could invite anyone to attend any current,
10 in the last three years, published embryonic
11 textbook, and they will all say that
12 scientifically a human being begins at
13 conception. Pregnancy might begin at
14 implantation, but the human being in actuality
15 begins at conception.

16 Now, philosophically, just briefly to end.
17 Philosophically, do we then give these rights to
18 a human being? Is this human being due rights?
19 Well, so far every other human being we give
20 rights to. And there's a easy way to determine
21 that philosophers -- that's my study in college,
22 philosophy and bioethics -- but that philosophers
23 use to decided whether somebody is due
24 personhood, it's called SLED. If you can
25 remember, you can look it up on YouTube. Size,

1 level of develop, environment, dependency. Those
2 are the distinctions between the baby embryo and
3 us in our current size and shapes.

4 So size first. Does size determine? No. A
5 two year old doesn't have more personhood than a
6 66 year old. A big football player doesn't have
7 more personhood or manhood, generally larger,
8 than women who are generally smaller. Size does
9 not matter philosophically.

10 Level of develop. Does level of develop
11 matter? No. My brother, who's Down Syndrome, it
12 doesn't matter. He's not a less person than me.
13 A two year who's closer to someone who is in the
14 womb, the two year old -- the embryo in the womb
15 is what a two year old is to us adults in
16 development. Development does not matter.

17 Environmental location. Your environment
18 does not alter your rights at all. It does not
19 alter your rights to personhood. I stand here, I
20 move over here, I didn't become less of a person.
21 A person can be spatial, a person can be in a
22 womb. If you're a person, you're a person.

23 And, finally, is dependency. We are all
24 dependent. One of the greatest scientific minds
25 currently, Stephen Hawkins, he's very dependent

1 on machines and on his people that support him.

2 And yet he still has whole personhood. Just

3 because you're dependent, and we're all

4 dependent, all independent people are.

5 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you, John. Is

6 there anyone else who would like to speak for or

7 against the amendment? Hearing none, we will go

8 to the second one. Thank you, Brad. Thank you,

9 Doctor, for coming.

10 The next one is 27, Initiative 27, Voter

11 Identification. Voter I.D. has been discussed in

12 Mississippi for a number of years. And if you

13 will look in your pamphlet, the initiative is

14 quite long. I'll read part of it to you and not

15 the whole thing.

16 But, basically, it states that a qualified

17 elector, which is you the voter, who votes in a

18 primary or a general election, either in person

19 or in -- I'm sorry, at the polls or in person at

20 the office of the Circuit Clerk shall present a

21 Government issued photo identification before

22 being allowed to vote.

23 In addition to that, there are several

24 exceptions here, where you do not have a

25 Government issued I.D., and also that you would

1 available to vote by affidavit. The Mississippi
2 Department of Public Safety is to provide a photo
3 I.D., free of charge, if you do not have a
4 driver's license or other type photo
5 identification that qualifies under the statute.

6 Since it's all in your brochure, I won't go
7 through reading the entire one of those. And Pat
8 Leimer. Is Pat here? There he is. Pat would
9 like to rise for five minutes to speak for voter
10 identification, Number 27. And since you are the
11 first one, Pat, you have five minutes.

12 PAT LEIMER: Mr. Secretary, thank you for
13 coming down to the Coast, again. We always enjoy
14 having you down here.

15 On voter I.D., the biggest claim is that the
16 less fortunate cannot afford voter I.D. Well, I
17 called the Department of Human Resources this
18 afternoon and asked what it would take for
19 someone to go on welfare or food stamps, what
20 identification would they need. The answers were
21 picture I.D., Social Security card or number, a
22 birth certificate or driver's license.

23 Voting is a right and a privilege. Why
24 would you not want voter I.D. I can't understand
25 it. You go to a bank, you go to a hospital, you

1 go to a childcare, they're all going to ask for

2 I.D.

3 I have some good cases here. We did some

4 homework. State of Mississippi 2008, 29 of the

5 82 counties, this was polled by the Associated

6 Press, they found that there were more registered

7 voters than residents old enough to cast a

8 ballot. I think that's enough reason right

9 there.

10 We've got one, two, three, four cases here

11 of voter I.D. Madison County, Noxubee County,

12 Wilkinson County, Clinton County. Most of these

13 have been resolved and these people have been

14 found guilty. We really need to get voter I.D.

15 passed. And it's time to get rid of the illegals

16 and all of the other things that were brought

17 about to have this voter I.D. to go on the

18 ballot.

19 We really need people to read and understand

20 what this is all about, and to vote for voter

21 I.D. I'll make mine short and sweet. Thank you.

22 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you, Pat. Is

23 there anyone who would like to speak against the

24 voter I.D.? Usually the opponents at the other

25 presentations have come. Is there anyone who

1 would like to speak against the action?

2 Hearing none, Eugene Lacaze. Is it Lacase

3 or Lacaze?

4 EUGENE LACAZE: Lacaze.

5 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Lacaze. All right.

6 Mr. Lacaze, you are recognized from Biloxi,

7 Mississippi. And he's recognized to speak for

8 voter I.D.

9 EUGENE LACAZE: Thank you. I don't have a
10 prepared speech, so y'all be tolerant.

11 I worked on this petition. I have worked
12 several elections, and I've seen voter abilities
13 in the electoral process. There is, especially
14 now in the modern era, the ability to get the
15 databases, the voter rolls. They're not updated
16 frequently, the ability to know who's dead and
17 who's not, whatnot.

18 I could come in, if I know you're sick,
19 recently deceased, and I don't think you're going
20 to vote or whatever, I could go into your
21 precinct, all that's required is that I just say
22 a name and an address. Normally, if I would just
23 say a name, I could acknowledge the address.

24 That's all that's required to vote.

25 In the modern era, as much of a civil

1 libertarian as I am, I mean, I'd rather not show
2 I.D. for much of anything. But in something as
3 important as voting, it needs to be addressed.
4 The ability for fraud is there. It is the most
5 important aspect of the United States of America.
6 Our democracy is what we're world famous for,
7 first and foremost, before McDonald's or anything
8 else. Thank you.

9 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you, Eugene.
10 Is there anyone else who would like to speak on
11 voter I.D.?

12 Hearing none, we will go to our last
13 initiative, which is eminent domain. Should the
14 Government be prohibited from taking private
15 property by eminent domain, and then transfer it
16 to other persons. J.D. Brown will be speaking
17 for the amendment, and Jim Simpson against it.

18 Initiative 31 is included in your brochure.
19 Again, I won't take the time to read all this
20 into the record. But, basically, it says, no
21 property acquired by the exercise of the power of
22 eminent domain under the laws of the State of
23 Mississippi shall for a period of ten years after
24 its acquisition be transferred or any interest
25 therein transferred to any person,

1 non-governmental entity, public or private
2 partnership, corporation or other business entity
3 with the following exceptions. The exceptions
4 are listed in the brochure and include all public
5 utilities, highways, water, sewer and others.

6 Initiative 31, to speak for Initiative 31 on
7 eminent domain, Mr. Brown, is granted five
8 minutes.

9 J.D. BROWN: Thank you, Secretary
10 Hosemann. Glad to meet Delbert in person.

11 I come before you in support of this
12 initiative. Our founding fathers, having just
13 came out from under the cloak of tyranny with the
14 Britains in the late 1700s, crafted a document
15 that has served us well for two centuries.

16 Although after crafting it, when it was sent back
17 to the states for ratification, there were a
18 number of states that would not ratify it until
19 certain amendments had been added.

20 The first ten amendments, known as our
21 elective Bill of Rights to the Constitution, were
22 submitted and ratified December 15, 1791. Those
23 have been known as the elective Bill of Rights
24 for the Constitution.

25 In those Bill of Rights, I'll refer you to

1 Amendment 5. In Amendment 5, the last section
2 says, nor shall private property be taken for
3 public use without just compensation. Now, jump
4 forward to Kelo versus New London, Connecticut.
5 I read Dr. Stephen Speed's article in the
6 pamphlet where he said we would not have a
7 Stennis Space Center. Well, that was a Federal
8 taking, but it was also for public use. And
9 public use has always been under the tenement of
10 taking of private property. We didn't want to
11 lose it, but if it was for a school or Stennis,
12 it was okay.

13 Go forward to the Kelo versus New London,
14 Connecticut decision. The Family Kelo of New
15 London, Connecticut, if you're not familiar, did
16 not want to relinquish their land. New London
17 decided they wanted to establish a Bayer facility
18 that would pay more taxes. It went all the way
19 to the Supreme Court. In a 5 to 4 ruling, the
20 Supreme Court ruled that they could do that.

21 Even the Wall Street Journal about a year
22 ago wrote a scathing article and said it was the
23 more outlandish decision ever rendered by the
24 High Court. Also, at that time, many States went
25 forward -- remember those first 10 amendments I

1 told you about, 43 states have went forward and
2 exercised Amendment Number 10. And Amendment
3 Number 10 says, the power is not delegated to the
4 United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited
5 by it to the States are reserved to the States
6 respectfully or to the people.

7 Forty-three states have passed a law that
8 puts it back to taking only for public use.
9 That's still -- as Secretary Hosemann just read,
10 we can still use it for bridges, roads, school
11 buildings. It would not allow a private entity
12 that says, I want John Doe's property because
13 I'll pay more taxes. It would prohibit that.

14 We had a great law passed in the House of
15 Representatives and the Senate in the State of
16 Mississippi. A friend of mine who is a person, I
17 think, with a lot of -- a great Marine veteran,
18 successful businessman, chairman who instituted
19 at that time, and we were going to look at a
20 piece of property when I got the call informing
21 that the Governor was planning to veto this bill.

22 When I hung up, he said, what was that
23 conversation about? And I told him, looks like
24 our Governor is going to veto our eminent domain.
25 He said, you mean a conservative governor, who I

1 respect greatly, is going to veto that bill? He
2 said, having fought for the Marines for this
3 Constitution, I revere the Second Amendment as
4 much as any, but right behind the Fifth Amendment
5 to that Constitution comes very close on its
6 heels. How could he do that?

7 Now, we've had to go out and get petitions
8 signed, thank goodness 120,000, to put this
9 initiative on the ballot. That's the first time
10 I've circulated a petition in my life. But I
11 felt very strongly about it, that we needed to
12 put this back on the burner to give the battle to
13 the people not to lose their property for private
14 use.

15 I will share with you a few -- well, I will
16 read, in 57 Mississippi counties we've got
17 approximately 66,000 acres available in
18 industrial parks, and most of these are adjacent
19 to railways, airports. They're available
20 already. Why do we need private land?

21 According to the Federal Reserve Bank of St.
22 Louis, one of the main requirements for a
23 well-functioning private park is your secured
24 property rights. Research has shown that without
25 strong property rights, individuals will lose the

1 incentive to make the best economic use of their
2 property. That's a strong statement itself.

3 But then I would go forward to John Adams,
4 emphasize the importance of private property
5 rights, a right which our founding fathers
6 thought was a basic premise of the Constitution.
7 The moment the idea is admitted into society that
8 private property is not as sacred as the laws of
9 God, and that there is not a force of law in
10 public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny
11 commend. Property should be secured or liberty
12 cannot exist.

13 And to go back on one other little point,
14 when we say just compensation. I had just
15 graduated from high school when Stennis Space
16 Center, the tearing down of the homes began. My
17 uncle bought a bunch of properties there that had
18 to be torn down. I went down there to watch the
19 tearing down. I still see the tears in Judge
20 Necaise -- Dr. Necaise and his wife losing their
21 memories and letting it go. But they always
22 said, this was for public use.

23 Join me in November and let's vote yes,
24 returning eminent domain for public use. Thank
25 you.

1 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you, Mr. Brown.
2 Jim Simpson, is Jim here? Jim was to speak
3 against, so we will move into the two-minute
4 portions.

5 First, Louis Breaux. Is Louis here, from
6 Kiln, Mississippi? Louis is rising to speak for
7 Initiative 31, the eminent domain amendment.

8 LOUIS BREAU: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.
9 My name is Louis Breaux. I hate to use the
10 word "I", but I will use the "I" tonight. I am
11 the President of the Hancock County Farm Bureau.
12 And all our members are producers of cattle and
13 some crops, which we are getting being forced out
14 of every day. And, also, the President of the
15 Cattleman's Association. And all our produces
16 have to have land to produce cattle. You can't
17 produce cattle on an acre of land. A lot of our
18 producers have horses. You cannot raise horses
19 on an acre of land.

20 So it seems like eminent domain is reaching
21 out towards people who have property. And then
22 that's where you have to have your buildings.
23 And like Mr. Brown said, there's 66,000 acres
24 that the State that they could use them for.

25 So two things always against the farmers.

1 One was the death tax, which, Washington really
2 helped us in extending the death tax. I'm not
3 going to get into that. But if you have a
4 business and you can't give it back to your kids
5 after you die, that's wrong. But they helped us
6 on that.

7 The next obstacle is the eminent domain. It
8 just seems like every time you turn around, this
9 issue is always up. People are looking for
10 property, looking for this, looking for that for
11 personal use. And like Mr. Brown said, we're not
12 for the public use. It's just the private use
13 that's really getting to us all the time.

14 So in closing, I'd just like to say, I hope
15 am y'all can support this eminent domain. I
16 would like Mr. Brown -- I pushed my first
17 petition. I've never did that before, but it was
18 a lot of work, but it was real gratifying to hear
19 the people talk. And we could have got more, but
20 the people that we were talking to at different
21 various stages of the county, they were from out
22 of state, and they well supported us, even from
23 out of state.

24 So I ask you to help support eminent domain
25 in November. Thank you.

1 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you, Mr.
2 Breaux. Harry Meyers from Vancleave. Mr. Meyers
3 is rising to speak for Initiative 31, eminent
4 domain. Mr. Meyers.

5 MR. MYERS: Thank you, Mr. Hosemann. I'm
6 a land owner in Jackson County. I'd like to talk
7 on this Initiative 31. What I want it start with
8 is, my dad and my grandparents come from
9 Louisiana, and they had -- and seen the need in
10 Biloxi for a store, a grocery store on Division
11 Street. That was many years ago. And as they
12 were building and growing in this store, they had
13 moved to Bay St. Louis. Never could understand
14 why they sold so much sugar in the Kiln area.
15 But, anyway, they saw the need for people to
16 have fresh produce. So what they had done, went
17 out to the south of Vancleave, where I live now,
18 to buy a farm. My dad cleared, my grandpa
19 helped. Now, now, the Highway Department is
20 taking 300 foot because of the expansion of
21 Highway 57. Now, I have swallowed that pill. I
22 understand, Mr. Hosemann, that for public use it
23 absolutely needs to be done.
24 Well, they're going to take about a mile,
25 300 foot. That's a good chunk of the property

1 from our farm. My daughters help me. They bush
2 hog. They fertilize. As my grandparents' come
3 and gone. My dad has come and gone. Now, I am
4 standing there at the forefront of our property.

5 I don't understand why a person in Jackson
6 can point their finger at that property and say,
7 that's where I want my business. If you can get
8 that property for me, I can put my business
9 there. We have been paying taxes there since the
10 late '40s. We've made a living with my own two
11 hands. I have worked right there, lived right
12 there, and I hope to die right there.

13 I don't understand why they can do that in
14 Jackson, take our property to give it to a
15 businessman to absolutely help his back pocket.
16 Thank you very much.

17 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you, Harry. On
18 a personal note, I miss my bush hog, too. I
19 haven't been able to get back there in a little
20 bit. Hopefully after August 2nd, it will settle
21 down and I can get back. Eugene Lacaze from
22 Biloxi, Mississippi, is rising to speak against
23 the eminent domain amendment.

24 EUGENE LACAZE: I'm speaking for the
25 initiative, but against eminent domain.

1 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Okay.

2 EUGENE LACAZE: The Constitution

3 references the ability to be secure in one's

4 personal properties. Our property is a means of

5 storing your labor. Most of us work 40 hours a

6 week, if you can find a job. Most of us work 40

7 hours a week, and then store that effort in

8 money, iphones, a car, property, whatnot. So

9 property is a means of storing one's life and

10 labor. And to have that taken from you, against

11 your will is certainly, I mean, at the very least

12 theft.

13 This amendment covers an issue, a loop hole.

14 Now, I'm going to just call Politician B. If

15 Politician B is my friend here, right, and I want

16 this land, I don't want to pay this price that

17 this guy wants for this land. I want to just

18 mess him over, just take his stuff, you know. I

19 can get my buddy here -- my politician has come

20 out with a book. Ain't nobody buying his book.

21 He's a sleazy politician.

22 So I buy -- I tell him, I'll buy 100,000

23 copies of that book for you. I'll make sure that

24 100,000 sell. I'll get you -- my buddy over here

25 with the book club, whatever, will get it sold.

1 I'll make you a million dollars. Can you make
2 that will deal happen for me?

3 This is no less than a dirty politics issue.
4 To use the force of government to come in and
5 take and steal for someone else. Thank you.

6 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you, Eugene.
7 Is there anyone else who would like to speak for
8 or against the Initiative 31, eminent domain?
9 Yes, sir. If you would come forward, you'll be
10 granted two minutes.

11 When you come forward, sir, would you
12 please, very clearly state your name, since we
13 don't have a card on you, so this lady can pick
14 it up. You're recognized for two minutes.

15 BILLY RAY BROADUS: My name is Billy Ray
16 Broadus. I am from Biloxi, Mississippi.
17 Woolmarket to be exact. Annexed not by choice.

18 I live on property that's been in my family
19 probably 150 years. We were all stewards of that
20 property. But when they extended the power of
21 eminent domain beyond what it was intended for it
22 was very much wrong. Like the gentleman said,
23 deals will be made. And it has happened already
24 in a lot of places.

25 I heard New London, Connecticut mentioned.

1 I happened to have worked in New London,
2 Connecticut just before that happened. The
3 property they took, it was a real shame. And
4 they did nothing with it after they got it. The
5 deal folded. The last I read on it, it was grown
6 up in weeds.

7 But we've fought a lot of wars for a lot of
8 things. One of them was for the love of land.
9 And when you start losing that, it kind of takes
10 the heart of it. It kills the initiative of
11 people. I had heard that mentioned.

12 Laws and regulations keep a lot of things
13 from happening. Good things. People used to do
14 things on their own. Build things, invent
15 things. Now, to do anything you've got to go
16 through a maze of rules and regulations, lawyers
17 and so on and so on and so on. It's no wonder
18 our country is getting in the shape it's in.

19 So, in short, to extend this thing any
20 further than it was intended to be is very, very
21 wrong. And we should -- and I apologize. Of all
22 the friends I've got that should have been here
23 tonight are not. I know there's a lot of people
24 against it, but they have should have shown and
25 have not. They'll hear from me. I know that.

1 Thank you.

2 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you, sir. Is
3 there any other comment for or against? Yes,
4 sir. If you'd come forward and we'll recognize
5 you. If you'd state your name clearly, please,
6 sir, so she can pick it up. And you're
7 recognized for two minutes.

8 JAMES CHILIMIGRAS: My name is James
9 Chilimigras. James Chilimigras. Eminent domain
10 is a good thing. It was for public use, as long
11 as you gave the individual just compensation.
12 Public use. But it becomes corrupt when they
13 take an ownership from a private individual for
14 private use.

15 And how is that? Not all of us -- ownership
16 is a right. Ownership is something that we have
17 always valued. We all are not millionaires. But
18 when a millionaire can come in with his
19 corporation and you say, hey, I could make more
20 money and I could pay you guys more taxes, get
21 this little owner out of here. He's not willing
22 to cooperate with me. He don't want to sell the
23 property. Not even for fair compensation.

24 Fair compensation? Sir, I grew up there.
25 My children. I make my living here. The dollar

1 bill is inflated every day. If you give me a
2 little bit of money, and not the right to
3 continue to earn every week and every month and
4 every year, what will I do when that disappears.
5 I'm too old to be educated. Don't take this away
6 from me. Let's keep it for public use and just
7 compensation. Not for private corruption.

8 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Thank you. Is there
9 anyone else who would like to speak for or
10 against eminent domain?

11 Hearing none, first, I want to thank
12 everyone for coming. It's real important you
13 took the time out of your day -- do we have one
14 more?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Secretary,
16 would it be possible for Monica to speak for two
17 minutes on our ballot initiative?

18 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Which one?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 33.

20 SECRETARY HOSEMANN: Oh, no. No. This is
21 a hearing on the other three. We can discuss
22 that outside. This one is not on record for 33.

23 I do want to thank everybody for coming.
24 It's real important you took the time. And I
25 can't tell you how many hundreds or thousands of

1 people will hear what you said tonight. Many
2 Mississippians will make up their mind off what
3 they read on the Internet. And all of this will
4 be on the Internet.

5 I encourage you, again, to give us written
6 comments. We've had over 30 so far. They're
7 going up on the Internet as we receive them.
8 People look to the Internet anymore and they want
9 to read what your thoughts are. So I think it's
10 real important for us to be transparent in this
11 process. And, also, to be able to convey your
12 feelings towards each of these amendments.

13 I would remind you, on August the 2nd
14 there's an election. If we want to honor our
15 servicemen and women, get in your truck and go
16 vote. It is a Democrat and Republican primary
17 election, and there will be a runoff, if needed,
18 in three weeks thereafter. So it's real
19 important that we exercise not only our right of
20 free speech, which you've done tonight, but also
21 exercise your right to vote and honor our
22 servicemen and women by the fact that you took
23 the time to go do that.

24 With that, we're going to stand adjourned
25 for this evening. I appreciate everyone coming

1 and we thank the junior college here for having
2 us in tonight.

3 (Concluded at 6:50 p.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 S T A T E O F M I S S I S S I P P I

3 C O U N T Y O F H A R R I S O N

4 I, Pamela Michele Keenlance, CSR and Notary

5 Public, duly commissioned for the County of

6 Harrison, State of Mississippi, do hereby certify

7 that the foregoing pages contain a full, true,

8 and correct copy of the proceedings as taken by

9 me at the time and place heretofore stated in the

10 aforementioned matter and later reduced to

11 typewritten form by me to the best of my skill

12 and ability.

13 I further certify that I am not related to

14 or in anywise associated with any of the parties

15 to this cause of action, or their counsel, and

16 that I am not financially interested in the same;

17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my

18 hand, this the 26th day of July, 2011.

19 _____

20 PAMELA MICHELE KEENLANCE, CSR #1511 My Commission

21 Expires: 08-27-14